

Montessori Center of Downriver - December Newsletter

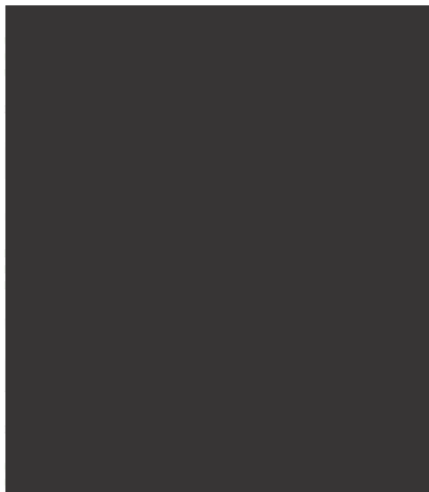
Welcome back! We hope you had a great Thanksgiving break! It's hard to believe, but there are only three more weeks until winter break.

With winter in mind, one thing of note is that we go outside daily whenever possible. Please make sure your child has a winter coat, hat, gloves/mittens, and warm boots or shoes. Please also be sure to label all your child's items to help us keep things organized.

We'd like to thank you all for the generous donations this month towards snacks and special meals!

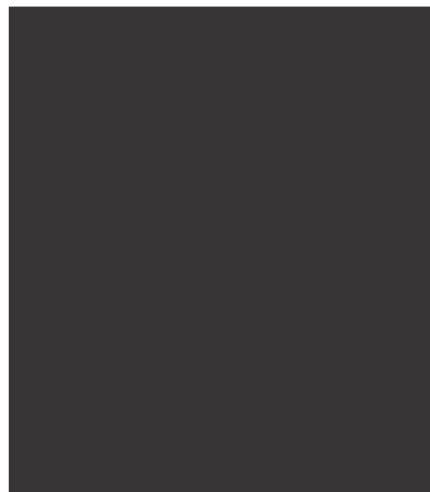
Have a wonderful December!

In the Classroom



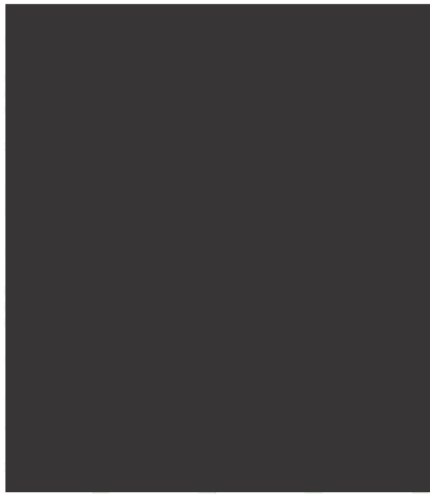
Mrs. Ashley's Class

"The child gives us a beautiful lesson – that in order to form and maintain our intelligence, we must use our hands" (Maria Montessori, The 1946 London Lectures). We allow children freedom of movement and freedom of choice based on what engages them in their prepared environment. Maria believed that cooking and preparing meals together is of utmost importance. Not only do we use our hands to get dirty outside, but we learn to use them inside the classroom--to be kind and gentle to our friends, animals, plants, and food.



Mrs. Dona and Mrs. Stephanie's Class

In December, Mrs. Stephanie and Mrs. Dona's class will be studying Europe, along with the different ways Christmas is celebrated throughout the world. They'll also be baking and decorating cookies and learning why it snows, which will include doing water cycle experiments.



Ms Donnette and Ms Mandi's Class

In December, Ms Mandi and Ms Donnette's class will be starting geography, including learning about Antarctica, land, air, and water.



Mrs. Melissa's Class

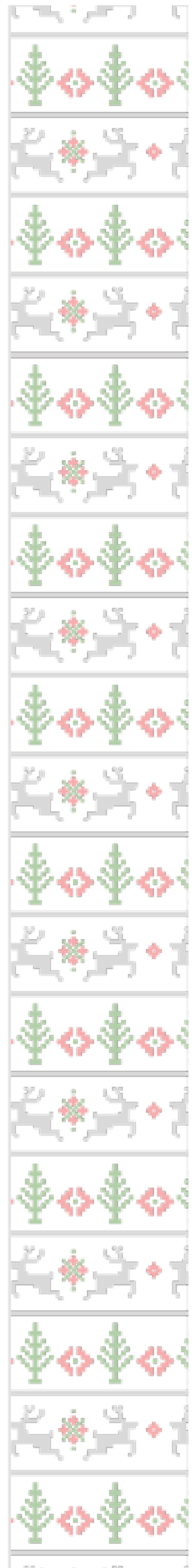
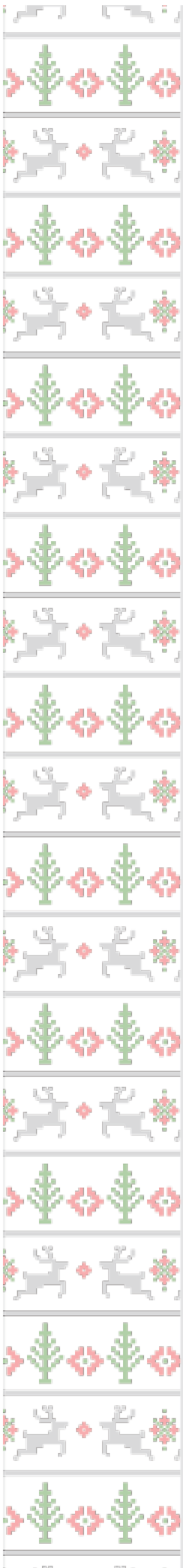
In December, Mrs. Melissa's class will be starting their unit on farm animals, and they'll be working on some new vocabulary words as well.

Dates to Remember

December 23rd - January 5th : School closed
January 6th: School reopens

Local Events and Resources

Great Lakes Live Steamers
December 6 & 7
6-9pm
Southgate Train Park
Miniature Train Rides are free. Donations are appreciated.





Island Glow

December 6

6-9pm

Macomb Street, Grosse Ile

Island Glow Tree is a cherished holiday tradition that brings the community together in a festive celebration of light, joy, and togetherness.

Before the tree lighting ceremony begins, attendees are treated to a variety of holiday-themed activities and entertainment options. Local choirs and musicians fill the air with the sounds of classic carols and festive tunes, while children delight in visits with Santa Claus, holiday crafts, and seasonal treats.

Following the tree lighting ceremony, the festivities continue with additional entertainment, activities, and opportunities for fellowship. Attendees can enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides through the twinkling streets, indulge in holiday treats and hot beverages, or browse through festive market stalls offering unique gifts and crafts.

Holidays at the Y

December 6

6-8pm

Downriver Family YMCA

Join in the Holiday fun! Holidays at the Y includes a performance of the Wyandotte Academy Youth Choir with sing along, Crafts and Games for parents and kids, Visit with Santa and more. Free to members and community.

Victorian Tea

December 7

12-6pm

Dearborn Historical Museum Commandant's Quarters

Join us for a fun Christmas open house at the historic Commandant's Quarters. Come check out our 12-foot Christmas tree and exhibit changes in the building while also getting to enjoy hot tea and freshly made cookies (tea available 1-4). There will also be games and activities for the kids, and a visit from Santa himself. If you've never been to the Commandant's Quarters, this is a great chance to see the inside of the building you've driven past for years and always wondered about.

Taylor Winterfest Day Celebration

December 7

3-7pm

Heritage Park

Experience the City's annual Winterfest Day Celebration. Children's activities in the afternoon. Parade kicks off from the Taylor Recreation Center at 5 p.m. Lots of music, food and refreshments for sale in the Sheridan Open Air Pavilion in Heritage Park once the procession arrives. Holiday characters abound. Once Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive and join Mayor Tim Woolley onstage, the official tree-lighting will take place. Fireworks cap off the evening.

Noel Night

Saturday, December 7 2024

11am-9pm

Midtown Detroit

Noel Night is an open house of the Midtown Detroit and Cultural Center districts that celebrates diverse holiday traditions amid the state's premier arts and cultural institutions, historic churches, galleries, and a growing circle of small businesses.

Noel Night features: Live music performances and other interactive holiday experiences; holiday shopping at local businesses and pop-up winter marketplaces; make-and-take activities for families; visits with Santa throughout the Noel Night footprint; lots of restaurants and bars to visit; food trucks and hot beverage stands; and free shuttle bus service.

All Creatures Great and Small

December 8

2-4pm

Trenton Cultural Center

Come and feed Santa's reindeer and pet other farm animals!





Santa Skate

Trenton Kennedy Ice Center

December 14

12-4pm

Ice skating with Santa!

Dearborn's Jingle Bell Bash

December 14

2-6pm

Downtown Dearborn

Get ready for a holly jolly holiday at our Downtown Dearborn Jingle Bell Bash! Join us for a day of festive fun, featuring:

- Music to get you in the holiday spirit
- Delicious treats to satisfy your sweet tooth
- Interactive games and crafts for the whole family
- Stunning ice sculptures, including a live ice carving demonstration
- Collaborations with local organizations
- A chance to capture a memorable photo with Santa!

[Registration](#) is highly encouraged!

Ballet Folklórico De Detroit Annual Holiday Concert

December 15

3:00-4:30pm

Senate Theater

6424 Michigan Avenue

Ballet Folklórico De Detroit is a volunteer run organization that provides affordable dance classes to the community. Join us for their annual holiday concert of traditional Mexican folk dancing,

Ballet folklórico, traditional Mexican folk dancing, is not any one style of dance, but rather, the combination of traditional indigenous roots mixed with African, Spanish or other European styles. Ballet folklórico encompasses all of these various traditional, regional and ethnically diverse dances.

Menorah in the D 2024

Campus Martius, Detroit

December 25

4:30pm

Lighting of the 26 ft. Detroit Menorah; Fire Show and Strolling Entertainment; Complimentary Hot Soup, Snacks & Cider; Photo Ops with Dreidel Man & the dancing dreidels; Crafts, games, and treats for kids

Wyandotte Library

Good Enough to Wrap! Kid's Crafts

Everyone loves to receive a homemade gift. Ms. Joann has a new kid's craft every Tuesday this month. Make one while supplies last.

3D Cookie Cutters

December 5 and 12

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Want to create a one of a kind cookie cutter? Come in with a digital picture or idea and design your very own with the help of CookieCAD and our local Makerspace Librarian! No experience with 3D printing or design is necessary. All class participants will receive a free print of their file. [Registration required.](#)

Santa Claus is coming to the Library!

December 7


10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Come visit anytime between 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM and 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM. Santa's Gift Shop will be open during event.

Gingerbread House Construction

December 17

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM





Build a beautiful and tasty Gingerbread House! All supplies are included. [Registration required.](#)

Trenton Library

Holiday Movie Trivia Night

December 19

6:00pm - 7:30pm

It's that time of year when we love to binge all our old favorite holiday films! Who got their tongue stuck to a pole in *A Christmas Story*? What item does Kevin purchase "for the kids" while picking up his groceries in *Home Alone*? Gather a team of up to 4 members and register to participate in our Holiday Movie Trivia Night! All ages are welcome! Wear an ugly holiday sweater, your pink bunny costume, or dress like your favorite character! Prizes will be given for the winning team, the best dressed, and all participants will have the chance to win a raffle prize!

Space is limited so please be sure to register online or by calling the library at (734)676-9777. Only one member should register for their entire team. Please select '1' ticket for your team when registering, you will be asked how many members of your team at a later step.

Dearborn Library

Bryant Branch Get Crafty (All Ages)

Thursdays from 11:00am - 7:00pm

Bryant Branch Library

Drop in for a new craft each Thursday. Available while supplies last. Younger children may need adult assistance. No registration.

Winter Solstice Celebration

December 21

10:00am - 4:00pm

Henry Ford Centennial Library

Embrace the light on the darkest day of the year! Join us for a winter celebration.

Noon Year's Eve Celebration

December 30

11:00am - 1:00pm

Henry Ford Centennial Library

Start the new year at the library with a fun, family-friendly celebration that won't keep you up all night!

Detroit Institute of the Arts

General museum admission is FREE for residents of Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties. Drop-in workshops are free.

Drop In Workshop: Luminaries

December 6

6 – 8:30 p.m.

December 7

12 – 4 p.m.

December 8

12 – 4 p.m.

Explore endless patterns and colors by layering tissue paper onto a simple glass jar, which you can later illuminate at home with a small candle, like a tea light.

Drop In Workshop: Accordion Books

December 13, 2024

6 – 8:30 p.m.

December 14

12 – 4 p.m.

December 15

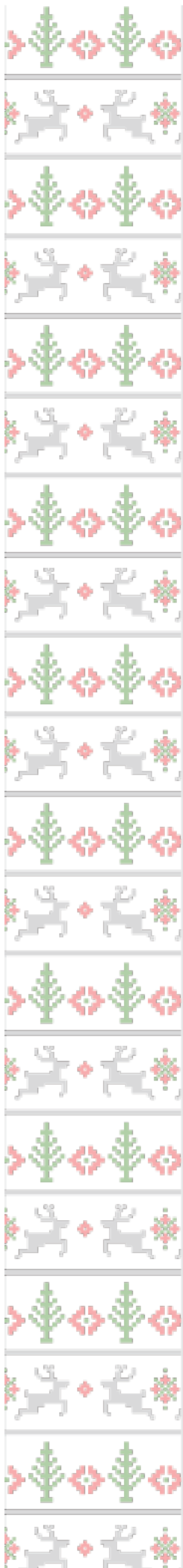
12 – 4 p.m.

The accordion book is one of the most versatile and beginner-friendly books to make. Craft your own, then personalize it with markers, ribbons, and beads!

Drop In Workshop: Printmaking Notecards

December 20





6 – 8:30 p.m.

Create beautiful, one-of-a-kind hand-pulled prints on paper using foam printing plates, water-based inks, and a wooden stylus. Simply fold your print in half to make a card—envelopes included!

Drop In Workshop: Paper Snowflakes

December 26

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

December 27

11 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

December 28

12 – 4 p.m.

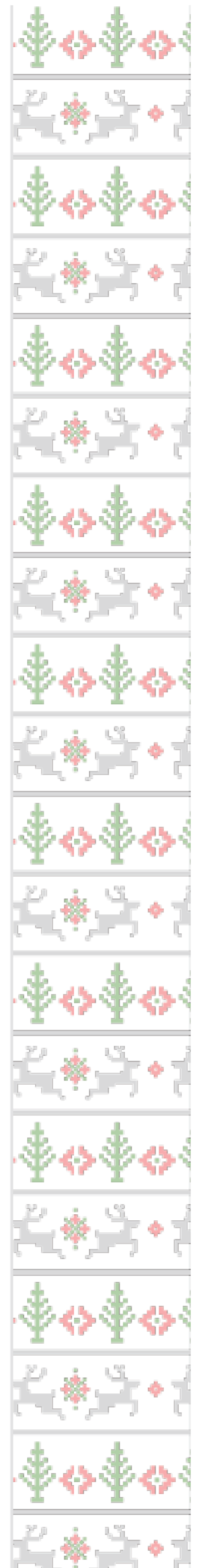
December 29

12 – 4 p.m.

Bring the beauty of winter indoors by making old-fashioned paper snowflakes. Perfect for adding a handmade touch to your seasonal decor!

Michigan Activity Pass

Looking for something to do over the break? The [Michigan Activity Pass](#) allows you to use your library card to “check-out” free or discounted passes to hundreds of cultural destinations, parks, campgrounds and recreation areas.





Gleaners

Gleaners provides boxes of food to anyone in need. There are no residency, income, or ID requirements. Boxes are first come, first serve.

City of Woodhaven (Drive-Up Only)

23101 Hall Rd
Woodhaven, MI 48183
12/10/2024 9:00am - 11:00am
01/07/2025 9:00am - 11:00am

City of Wyandotte - Yack Arena (Drive-Up Only)

3131 3rd Street
Wyandotte, MI 48192
12/13/2024 9:00am - 10:30am
01/10/2025 9:00am - 10:30am

Ford Community and Performing Arts Center (Drive-Up Only)

15801 Michigan Ave
Dearborn, MI 48126
12/03/2024 9:00am - 11:00am
12/17/2024 9:00am - 11:00am

Kennedy Building - Central Office - Ecorse Public Schools (Drive-Up Only)

27225 West Outer Drive
Ecorse, MI 48229
12/03/2024 2:00pm - 4:00pm
12/17/2024 2:00pm - 4:00pm
01/14/2025 2:00pm - 4:00pm